

From: John Roberts
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft anti-trust settlement

I don't think that this settlement provides enough protection to consumers that Microsoft will not engage in predatory practices in the near future.

1)

Microsoft does not have to share source code with other companies developing applications for their operating systems. This gives Microsoft's application development teams an incredible head-start, by allowing them to perform concurrent development. All other companies have to wait until the operating system is fully released, and then they are given only some of the data & information that Microsoft's application development teams are given.

2)

Any court challenge / enforcement done under the new regulations will not be able to react quickly enough to stop anti-competitive behavior. There is no point in launching a challenge against Microsoft, when the challenge may spend 2-5 years in the court system. By that time, your company will be dead, and Microsoft will have eaten your lunch.

3)

Microsoft's operating system & applications are becoming more deeply inter-woven, decreasing the probability that any new competitor entering these markets will be able to compete against the combined entities. In fact, it is getting more and more difficult to un-install unwanted Microsoft applications, and install applications from competitors, (e-mail clients are an example of this).

I hope that the United States government reconsiders, and places real, immediate and severe restrictions on Microsoft.

John Roberts

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